

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The drawings have been amended at Fig. 6 to change "64" to --66--, in accordance with the Examiner's helpful correctional comment, which is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-13, 18-34 have been canceled.

Claim 14 has been amended to independent form including all parent claim limitations including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, in accordance with the Examiner's indication that claims 14-17 would be allowable if so amended. This indication of allowability is noted with appreciation.

Claim 35 defines the housing (22) as having a chamber (44) extending axially between the inlet (26) and the aftertreatment element (34), and requires a perforated plate (174, Figs. 12, 13) extending laterally across the chamber (44), and that the plate have a first central area (176, Fig. 13) and a second surrounding area (178), and that the plate be perforated at both of the first and second areas (176 and 178) and that the second area (178) have larger perforated holes (180) than the central area (176 having smaller perforated holes 182). This is supported in the specification at page 7, lines 8-12. Applicant has reviewed the cited references, and has not found the defined combination nor the suggestion thereof. Consideration and allowance of claim 35 is respectfully requested.

Claim 36 requires that the housing (22) have a housing wall (36) defining a chamber (44) extending axially between the inlet (26) and the aftertreatment element (34) and that the diffuser (202, Fig. 16) be in the chamber (44) and spaced laterally inwardly from the housing wall (36) and that the diffuser (202) extend from the inlet (26) toward the aftertreatment element (34), and further requires a support flange (204) in the chamber (44) and axially spaced from the inlet (26) and axially spaced from the aftertreatment element (34) and extending laterally inwardly from the housing wall (36) to the diffuser (202) to support the latter, and further requires that the diffuser (202) extend from the inlet (26) to an inner diffuser end (208, Fig. 16) axially spaced from the aftertreatment element (34) and laterally spaced inwardly from the housing wall (36), and further that the support flange

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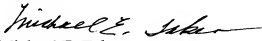
(204) extend laterally inwardly from the housing wall (36) to the inner diffuser end (208) to support the latter. Applicant has reviewed the cited references, but has not found the defined combination nor any suggestion thereof. Consideration and allowance of claim 36 is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that claims 14-17, 35, 36 are patentably distinct over the references in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on even date herewith citing a Search Report from the United Kingdom Patent Office dated July 11, 2003 in counterpart U.K. Patent Application No. 0300613.7.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance with claims 14-17, 35, 36, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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